DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 368 717 SP 035 164

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TITLE Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-86571-231-X
PUB DATE 92
NOTE 104p.
AVAILABLE FROM New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143 (paperback, ISBN-0-86571-231-X: $9.95 each plus $2.50 postage and handling for the first copy and $0.75 for each additional copy; hardcover, ISBN-0-86571-230-1).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Change Agents; Change Strategies; *Compulsory Education; *Conformity; Conservatism; Criticism; Educational Change; Educational Practices; Elementary Secondary Education; Futures (of Society); Government School Relationship; *Hidden Curriculum; *Privatization; *Public Schools; Teaching Methods

ABSTRACT

The five essays in this book criticize the "deadening heart" of compulsory state schooling, described as a series of assumptions and structures that stamp out the self-knowledge, curiosity, concentration and solitude essential to learning--a system wherein education and schooling are mutually exclusive terms. The book argues that between schooling and television, children have little time to learn for themselves--about the community they live in, or the lives they might lead; instead, they are schooled to obey orders and become smoothly functioning cogs in the industrial machine. It is suggested that independent study, community service, large doses of solitude, and a variety of different apprenticeships with adults in all walks of life are keys to helping children break the thrall of a conforming society. Some form of free market system in public schooling is proposed as the likeliest place to look for answers--a free market where family schools, entrepreneurial schools, religious schools, crafts schools, and farm schools, would exist in profusion to compete with compulsory government monopoly mass-schooling. (LL)

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